

A

# Weekly Review

## OF THE

### Affairs of FRANCE.

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *New-Writers*  
and *Petty-State-men*, of all Sides.

Saturday, March 25. 1704.

**A**S the worst Enemies of Truth shall never have the advantage to charge us with Partiality in these Papers, it must be necessary in the Examination of the present Greatness of the French Power, to look into those Parts where it seems weakest; and tho' God knows they are very few, the present Face of their Affairs being, generally speaking, every where very formidable; yet, as we are not drawing a Map of the French, in Order to Terrify our Friends, we shall endeavour to give all our Pretences of their Weakness, the full length and breadth.

And tho' we wish as much as any Man, that all our boasting New-Writers had Reason for their undervaluing the Forces of the French; and that it was true as the *London Post*, March 15. says, That the Hungarians Demand 20000 Livers of the French, which that King is not in a Condition to spare him: yet, while his Numerous Armies appear on His

mies Frontiers, while he has 300000 Pistoles before-hand at Seville, for the Payment of his Auxiliar Troops in Spain, while he can appropriate 18 Millions for his Sea-Service; and while what we have already said on this head, is true: We cannot perswade our selves to advance to the World, that he wants 20000 Pounds to supply the Insurrection in Hungaria, if he saw 'twas his Interest to support it.

If there is the least Prospect of a Breach on the French Power, 'tis in Italy, and abundance of Strange and Wonderfulls we have had from thence, by way of Descant and Reflection.

If we pretend to state the Case of the French Affairs in Italy, we must go back to the beginning of the last Campaign; every-body expected, and indeed not without good Reason, that the *Imperialists* would have been forc'd to abandon Italy, and 'tis still hard to Assign a Cause why the French Army, which by all the Lists

of their Forces, appeared to be 54000 Men, and who had push'd the Germans into a very small spot of Ground, should yet lie almost all the Summer, and not Displace, Starve, or reduce a handfull of Men; for we could never make the Germans to be above 14000 Men, till after the Affair of Trent was over.

About the Month of June, the Duke de Vendome bid fair for it, and had most effectually driven them from the Rivers, had gotten a Bridge upon the Po below their Quarters, Belieg'd Brescello above them, and Taken Final di Modena on their Flank, and they had no way left, but to advance into the Vicentine, in the Venetian Territories, or Retreat into Ferrara in the Popes Dominions.

In this juncture the Germans fell on Mons. Albergoni, and Defeated him; Retook the Pals and Town of Finst de Modena, and Repuls'd the Duke de Vendome, in his Attack upon Ostiglia. These three successful Actions enlarged their Quarters, clear'd the Po, and left them free Communication with the Imperial Commissioners on the other side of the Gulph of Venice, who continually supply'd them with Stores and Provisions by Sea.

Tho' this was a great Advantage, and an Instance of the Bravery of the Germans, yet either they must have fallen under the French Power, or the Duke de Vendome could have given but a very sorry Account of the Campaign.

But in the Crisis of this Action, as if the Fate of Italy was not to be Determined, France took the fairest step that we can in any Justice charge her with in all this War.

And yet to this Hour 'tis not decided, and will not easily be, whether the Error lay in the French, or the Duke of Bavaria; whether the first was too late, or the latter too soon, the Matter of Fact is as follows.

An Express arrives in Italy with Orders to the Duke de Vendome to leave his Designs on the Po, and in Person Invade the Bishoprick of Trent, in Order to joyn the Duke of Bavaria, who by Measures already Concerted at Paris and Munick, was at the same time to Enter Tyrol; and after the Conjunction to open a Free Com-

munication between Italy and Bavaria, and pierce with their United Strength, into the Emperors Hereditary Countries.

Whether the Duke of Bavaria, as before hinted, began too soon, or the Duke de Vendome stay'd too long, 'tis not determined; but the Bavarian found such Resistance in Tyrol, and Embarrass'd himself so much between the Boors and the Mountains, that tho' he had Master'd Kuffstein, the Key of that Country, and afterwards Innspruck, the Capital City, yet he was Distress'd by the Boors, beaten out of the Country, and forc'd to abandon all his Conquests, Kuffstein only excepted; and this before the French Forces had quitted the Banks of the Po.

Had the French been under the Walls of Trent, when the Bavarian was in the Heart of Tyrol, nothing but some blow from Heaven, like that of Senacherib's Army, could have prevented their Conjunction.

The Duke de Vendome however late pursues his Orders, and with the same Torrent of Success, as the Bavarians had before, Enters the Trentine, Conquers all the Difficulties of Mountains and Fortifications, and shews himself before the City of Trent.

Here he began to see the Impossibility of the Undertaking, and the disappointment of the Bavarian Expedition, as a double difficulty of his own: However he raises some Works, and with what Cannon he had with him, and two Mortars, Fires upon the City.

Here we must pause, and return to the Po; Prince Vaudemont, who with part of the French Army, was left to face the Germans, found himself not in a Condition, to prevent their sending 6000 Men to joyn the Imperial Forces, who oppos'd the French in the Trentine, so that now we cannot suppose the Germans, who were left, to be above 8 or 10000 Men; and yet Prince Vaudemont had with him 22000 Men, besides the Garrison of Mantua.

But these 22000 Men consisted of Spaniards, Neapolitans, Milanese and Savoyards, the latter of which, made about 6000, and were esteem'd, especially the Horse, some of the best of his Troops.

In this Juncture of Time came to their Ears, the Case of the Duke of Savoy, who having been ill used in the French Army, ever since the Action at Chiari, which the French to this day place to the Account of his Temerity; and having privately made his Peace with the Emperor, and Entered into the Grand Alliance, had, as they say, design'd to take this Opportunity in the Absence of the Duke de Vendome and the Division of the Army, to joyn with the Imperialist, and enter Milan.

Whether this News came from Paris to the Duke de Vendome, or whether he

ventured to send an Account thither, and wait for Orders, is not certain; tho' the latter is most probable: But this is plain, That contrary to the French Custom, and that Prince's in particular, for all Men know the Duke of Vendome to be a Man of a precipitate Valour, they Loyter'd about Trent 12 or 14 days.

Tho' this Relation may seem something Remote from the Design of these Papers; yet the Author thinks it a Necessary Digression, and doubts not when it comes to bear with the General Article, the Reader will think so too.

## Mercure Scandale :

O R,

### A D V I C E from the Scandalous C L U B :

THE Society having been so long upon the Examination of our New- Writers, and daily Complaints being still made of their Scandalous Mistakes, Ignorances and Contradictions; the Question was put, Whether they should be all call'd over again, to Answer such new Charge as was upon the File against them? And after some Debate, it was resolv'd to give them a Month's time from the first day of March Instant, to mend their Manners; in which time, if they thought fit to Review their Papers, and give Notice of past Mistakes, and the like, they should be excused; if not, they should be proceeded against with the utmost Severity.

But before this Order was to Commence, the Authors of the Flying-Post past an Examination for Offences formerly Committed.

He first had told us; Flying-Post, Feb. 29, That the Ship, Land of Promise, was come into Plymouth from Roterdam,

with Wine and Cloth bound for Barbadoes.

Being ask'd if he had Certain Advice his News was true; he told the Society he had.

Then he was ask'd, whether the said Ship came in to unload her Wine and Cloath: At which he began to laugh and banter the Society, telling them, if they pleas'd to look upon his Paper, she was not bound to Plymouth; but to Barbadoes.

Upon which the Club being something mov'd, Order'd the Statute-Book to be fetch'd, and desired him to read the Act of Navigation, whether a Dutch Ship could proceed from Roterdam to Barbadoes: when the Author was convinc'd, and had little to say.

Upon which he was Order'd to get the Act of Navigation without Book, and Repeat it three times on the Barbadoes Walk in the Royal Exchange, as a Satisfaction to the Plantation

Plantation Merchants for Scandalizing their Trade.

Another of his Papers was produc'd, in which he told the World, the *Windsor* and *Bridgwater* Men of War arriv'd from *Ireland*, at *Plymoush*, Convoy to several Ships, and among the rest a *Hamburgher* for *Bilboa*.

Here he was ask'd, whether he was sure the *Hamburghers* continue to Trade with *Spain*, notwithstanding the Emperor's Avocatoria, and if so, he was Directed to send an Express of it to *Vienna*, that they may be procced against for Contumacy.

But being Demanded how this *Hamburgher* came to call at *Plymoush*, in the way from *Ireland* to *Bilbos*; he was forc'd to submit, and was Recorded in the Book of Nonsense Fol. 5.

The farther Examination of this Affair was Adjourn'd upon the following occasion.

One *J. P. a Reformer*, brought a Drayman before the Club, for that he had scandalously been at Work with his Dray and Horses, at the Vulgar Employment of Carrying and Starting Strong Beer, on the 20th of *January* last, contrary to My Lord Mayor's Express Order for the Observation of that day.

The Fellow being taken in the East, had little to say as to that, but saucily told them they had nothing to do with him, for he belong'd to Sir *J. n P.*

The Society, in respect to the Ruler of the People, presently dismiss'the Man, and Order'd him to let his Master know how Civilly they had used him.

But being at the same time Inform'd, that several other Men had been severely Punish'd for Working on the same day; they made it be Noted down in their Book of Remembrance, How Beneficial a thing it is, to be a *L-d M-*'s Drayman.

The Printer of this Paper receiv'd a short Reprimand from the Clubb, for over-looking the following Errors in the last; but escap'd a Censure on prouise of Amendment.

Page 35. Col. 1. for *King of France*, read *Kings of France*; ibid. Col. 2. for *there were*, read *there was*; Page 36. Col. 1. for 1673; read 1703.

**A**dvertisements are taken in at reasonable Rates, by J. Matthews, in Pilkington-Gourt in Little-Britain.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

**A**T Fellow's Coffee-house, over-against the Half-Moon Tavern in Aldersgate-street, are sold several sorts of Purging Waters; as also the Epsom Salt; where is a large Room to Walk in, and other Conveniences for those that please to drink them there.

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